

**To:** Rhymes, Alturo[RhymesA@cbsnews.com]  
**From:** StClair, Christie  
**Sent:** Fri 8/14/2015 2:00:29 AM  
**Subject:** RE: CBS News Inquiry: Update Animas River Data

This just went out as well:

**Date: 8.13.15**

**Contact:**

[press@epa.gov](mailto:press@epa.gov) or 970-812-3351

#### **EPA Statement on Data from New Mexico to Navajo Nation from Gold King Mine Release**

**FARMINGTON, NM** - Today, EPA is releasing additional water quality data from Aug. 7 to Aug. 8, 2015, for the Animas and San Juan Rivers from the Northern Border of New Mexico to Navajo Nation. Based upon the surface water sample results in New Mexico surface water concentrations are trending toward pre-event conditions.

To assess the impacts of the release at the Gold King Mine, water quality samples were collected from the Northern Border of New Mexico to Navajo Nation at numerous intervals beginning on Aug. 7, 2015. Samples were taken prior to the plume's arrival to establish a baseline for water quality comparisons. Each surface water sample was analyzed for 24 metals, including arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury.

Surface water samples were collected on Friday, August 7, 2015, at four (4) locations prior to arrival of the plume along the Animas and San Juan Rivers in New Mexico. On Saturday, August 8, 2015, nine (9) locations were sampled after arrival of the plume.

EPA has continued to take additional samples to document the change in the concentration of metals in the river. EPA has shared this data with state, local and tribal officials in New Mexico

to assist them in their decisions regarding the on-going use of water resources. These results are based on validated sampling data collected from Aug. 7 to Aug. 8, 2015.

<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/epa-statement-data-new-mexico-navajo-nation-gold-king-mine-release>

**Christie St. Clair**

Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

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**From:** StClair, Christie

**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 7:56 PM

**To:** 'R8EISC'; Rhymes, Alturo

**Cc:** R8EISC; Press

**Subject:** RE: CBS News Inquiry: Update Animas River Data

Hi Alturo,

EPA released data last night from Aug. 5-9 which shows that water quality for the Animas River from the Silverton, Colo. area to the Durango municipal water intake has returned to pre-event water quality levels.

EPA plans to continue to monitor, analyze and share data for downstream river segments as it becomes available.

Data, trends and map here: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/epa-statement-colorado-data-gold-king-mine-release>

We will add you to our media list for future announcements.

Thanks,

Christie

**Christie St. Clair**

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**From:** Rose Brogden [<mailto:Brogden.Rose@epamail.epa.gov>] **On Behalf Of** R8EISC

**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 5:17 PM

**To:** Rhymes, Alturo

**Cc:** R8EISC; Press

**Subject:** Re: CBS News Inquiry: Update Animas River Data

Hello,

The US EPA has prepared the following guidance:

Thank you for contacting the Region 8 Environmental Information Services Center. Local and national media inquiries about the Gold King Mine release can now be sent to [press@epa.gov](mailto:press@epa.gov). We have copied [press@epa.gov](mailto:press@epa.gov) on this response to you so they are aware of your request. We also have a phone line in our Joint Information Center staffed by press officers. The phone number is 970-812-3351.

The US EPA has prepared the following information resource:

EPA is committed to working closely with response agencies and state and local officials to ensure the safety of citizens, respond to concerns and to evaluate impact to water contaminated by the Gold King Mine Release. EPA is sharing information as quickly as possible with the public as experts work to evaluate any effects the spill may have on drinking water, public health, agriculture, fish and wildlife.

Please see our website for the latest information: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>

Regular updates will be posted as they are available.

EPA Hotline: 844-607-9700 (toll-free)

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**From:** Rhymes, Alturo <[RhymesA@cbsnews.com](mailto:RhymesA@cbsnews.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 9:09 PM  
**To:** R8EISC  
**Cc:** Press  
**Subject:** CBS News Inquiry: Update Animas River Data

Hello, I am seeing reports that EPA released final data related to the initial Animas River incident and the level of toxicity in the hours after the spill. Is this information available. I am looking to use it in our coverage tonight.

Alturo Rhymes

Producer, **CBS Evening News** *with Scott Pelley*

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